(b) if not, the reasons for not granting No Objection Certificate (NOC) to PIO who are treated at par with NRIs;

(c) whether Government have taken the opinion of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Overseas Affairs and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion with regard to the status of PIO *vis-a-vis* NRIs;

(d) if so, the opinion of the above Ministries. Ministry-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken including amendment to Aircraft Rules, 1937 if any, to expedite the grant of NOC to PIO to operate scheduled Air Transport Service in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The existing Civil Aviation Requirements stipulate that a scheduled/non-scheduled air transport operators permit can be granted only to a citizen of India or to a company/body corporate provided, *inter-alia,* that its substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian nationals. Hence persons of Indian Origin, who are not Indian citizens, can not be permitted to operate air transport services in terms of the present regulatory position.

(c) to (e) The matter is under examination in consultation with all concerned.

Implementation of swagat seva at airports

1579. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are evolving a facilitation service for the airlines on the lines of 'Marhaba-Welcome' in Dubai;

(b) whether Government have identified any international airports in the country to implement this service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India have decided to introduce "Swagat Seva' facility at all the major airports in India.

(c) Under the Swagat Seva, the selected agency shall provide porterage services as well as assist once in clearing airport formalities, purchase of tickets and reservation, etc. The agency providing the services shall be charging Rs. 500/- per passenger.

Procedure for import of aircrafts

1580. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 541 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 2005 and state:

(a) what are Government rules for the import of aircraft (Private Jets)/ helicopters by private companies/individuals;

(b) what certification procedures are followed by the DGCA; and

(c) who is responsible for the maintenance of such aircraft/helicopters and whether they are approved by the DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The aircraft/helicopter by private companies/ individuals for private use can be imported under a licence by Ministry of Commerce (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) Clearance by Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) For certification of each aircraft Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) follow a standard procedure and check list. By this porcess aircraft registered in India are certified airworthy before they are used in service.

(c) All the aircraft/helicopters are maintained by the organizations approved by DGCA.

Air service from Gaya Airport

1581. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gaya Airport is being equipped properly to receive foreign tourists, coming from the Eastern-countries;

(b) whether there is any plan to start direct flights from Tokyo and Taipeh to Gaya to help tourists from those countries; and

(c) whether there is any plan to start domestic flights from Delhi to Gaya on a regular basis?